Historic Preservation

QUARTERLY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Vol. 7, No. 1 *Spring 1955*

ADAM THOROUGHGOOD HOUSE

The old Adam Thoroughgood House on the shores of Lynnhaven River in Princess Anne County, Va., was recently threatened by the development of a real estate sub-division on what had once been a 5350 acre land patent issued to Adam Thoroughgood in 1634. Sometime shortly after that date he built the brick house facing the shores of the River. It is still standing and in a relatively good state of preservation, having been restored under the direction of the late Charles Over Cornelius, associate curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in 1923.

A Norfolk citizens' committee has undertaken to assure the restoration and permanent preservation of the house and four acres of surrounding land on the shores of the tidal river. Under the leadership of Henry Clay Hofheimer, II, a non-profit corporation, Friends of the Adam Thoroughgood House, has been formed. At their May meeting they announced that their goal of $115,000 was in in sight.

Mr. Hofheimer was elected chairman of the Board. Other officers of the corporation are, John L. Roper II, vice president; Fletcher Garlock, secretary; and Edward J. Brickhouse, treasurer. Serving as directors in addition to the officers, are John S. Alfriend, Abner S. Poue, Ralph B. Doughlass, W. Fred Duckworth, W. C. Whitehead, D. M. Thornton, Benjamin B. Burroughs, James N. Collier (who at present owns the Thoroughgood property), C. F. Burroughs, Jr., George T. McLean, Mrs. Oscar F. Smith, Mrs. W. T. Old, Charles L. Kaufman, Frank Batten, John B. Dey and Seaborn J. Flournoy.

The National Trust has been working with the local group in an advisory capacity. The plans call for an intensive archaeological and historical investigation followed by restoration under a board of nationally recognized experts. The restoration is scheduled to be through its major phase in time for the 350th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown in 1957.

The house, which originally depended principally upon water transportation, is now approached through a grove of pecan trees. The land on each side of the avenue will be sub-divided into acre lots, and building restrictions will govern the kind of structures that can be erected. Mr. Collier, who owns the property being sub-divided, has agreed to sell the house for $25,000. He has also pledged a substantial contribution to the restoration fund if the campaign is successful.

SHORT COURSES

The eighth annual Seminars on American Culture will be held in Cooperstown, N. Y. during two consecutive weeks, June 26 - July 2 and July 3 - 9, with two completely different programs. Address inquiries to Louis C. Jones, Director, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N. Y.

Radcliffe College and the department of history of Harvard College have announced the second annual session of the Institute on Historical and Archival Management, to be held during the 8-week period June 20 - Aug. 12. The course is being directed by Earle W. Newton with the cooperation of 16 institutions, including the National Trust. Application blanks and detailed information are available from the Director, Institute on Archival Management, 10 Garden St., Cambridge, 38, Mass.

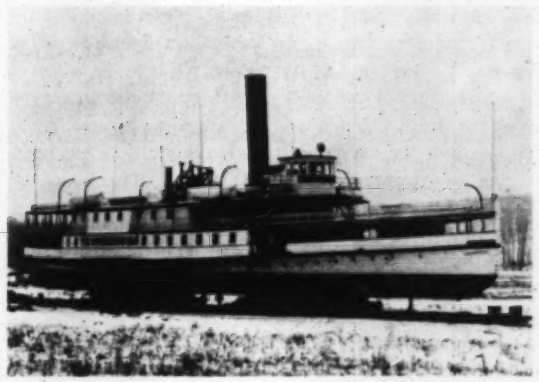
Applications are now being accepted at Cooperstown, N. Y. for the short course, *Historic House Keeping*, being offered under the joint auspices of the New York State Historical Association and the National Trust. Prospectuses have been mailed to members of both organizations, and applications will be accepted from any of those interested in the problems attending the development and operation of historic house museums. For data on course content, special consultation services and faculty, address Frederick L. Rath, Jr., National Trust for Historic Preservation, 712 Jackson Place, Washington 6, D. C. For inquiries dealing with registration, fees, transportation or housing, address Louis C. Jones, Director, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N. Y.

"Opportunities for Summer Study in Latin America" issued by the Division of Education of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Pan American Union (Washington 6, D. C.) is a 55-page bulletin outlining the varied courses offered for foreign students in Latin countries.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Sociedad para el Fomento y Conservación de San Juan (Puerto Rico); Friends of Raynham Hall, Inc. (N.Y.); Golden Raintree Association (New Harmony, Ind.); Edison Birthplace Association, Inc. (Milan, Ohio); Pilgrimage Garden Club (Natchez, Miss.); Colonial Dames of America (N.Y.); Illinois Department of Conservation, Division of Parks and Memorials; Tombstone Restoration Commission (Ariz.); Galveston Historical Society (Texas); Connecticut Valley Historical Museum (Mass.); and Calvert County Historical Society (Md.). Dromedary Co., Division of National Biscuit Co., (Corporate member).

Adam Thoroughgood House, Princess Anne County, Va. *Photo Craftsmen, Inc.*



The old sidewheeler *Ticonderoga*, queen of Lake Champlain, takes a dry run over snowy Vermont fields to her final berth at Shelburne Museum. The epoch-making move of the 49-year old queen was described as "the longest overland trip for a steamer of this size that we know anything about," by the Steamship Historical Society of America. There established in a pit of her own, with decks flush with the ground, her wheels will be remounted and churn the clear brisk air of Vermont instead of Champlain's historic waters.

Shelburne Museum, Inc.

For 108 years the Old Mariners' Church stood on the corner of Woodward Avenue and Woodbridge Streets in the heart of Detroit Modernization of the city and development of the new Civic Center made it impossible for the church to remain there. Friends of the old Mariners' Church, Inc., raised the fund needed to move the 500,000,000 pounds of masonry undamaged, 800 feet to a new location. It is now seeking gifts and contributions to restore the church on its site as a community church in the heart of the Civic Center. Donors' names are being permanently recorded in the "Log of Old Mariners."

Detroit News

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Lexington, Ky. The newly-organized Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Lexington has as its first project purchase of *Hopemont* home of the Confederate cavalry leader Gen. John Hunt Morgan, built in 1811. Impetus for organization of the group came from the recent razing of the Bradford House across the street from the Morgan structure for a parking lot. John Bradford, who lived in the house from 1806-1830 was publisher of The Kentucky *Gazette.*

New York, N. Y. Historic Sea and Land Presbyterian Church (1819) at Market and Henry Streets is a large step nearer its proposed restoration with a substantial donation for the purpose just being acknowledged by Dr. Paul Heath of the N. Y. Presbytery. The old stone and timber structure has suffered from years of neglect as its congregation dwindled from 800 to a mere 40 members.

Columbia, Calif. School teachers of California will sponsor a fund drive to raise money to finance the restoration of the century-old Columbia Grammar School on Cemetery Hill in Columbia State Park. The Park, administered by the State Department of Beaches and Parks, is a restored ghost town. Plans for the restored school include the construction of an adjoining museum building which will display textbooks and other teaching aids, past and present.

Hillsboro, N. C. In the last days of the Civil War, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, C.S.A., met in Bennett's house with the Union's Gen. W. T. Sherman to agree on surrender terms. Under the auspices of the Julian S. Carr Chapter of the U.D.C., a program is under way to reconstruct the house, of which only the massive stone chimney and foundations remain.

Zanesfield, Ohio. Ebenezer Zane's old log cabin where the first Methodist mission was held in 1819 is to be acquired by the Logan County Historical Society.

Pawtucket, R. I. Rhode Island's historic textile mill, erected by Samuel Slater in 1793, and believed to be the first cotton mill in the U. S. is to be restored by the Old Slater Mill Association as a living museum of the early textile industry. A valuable collection of early textile machines and reproductions of them has been assembled since 1925, when the mill was first acquired by the Association.

New York, N. Y. Pierre S. du Pont, 3d, of Wilmington, Del. presented a $50,000 gift to the pre-campaign appeal for the American Museum of Immigration to be established at the base of the Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island. Other National Trust members who are serving as trustees of the Museum are Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant 3d, U.S.A. (ret.), president; Mr. du Pont, vice president and chairman of the executive committee; and Alexander Hamilton, treasurer.

Nashville, Tenn. If the minority group which opposed the sale and razing of the notable Egyptian revival church designed by William Strickland for the First Presbyterian church in 1849 can raise $550,000 by Oct. 1, they will be permitted to buy it from the majority group. The majority originally wished to sell the church for commercial purposes and erect a modern suburban church with the proceeds.

Harrisburg, Pa. A bill introduced into the Pennsylvania Senate would authorize the construction of a reproduction of "Ole Bull Castle," site of a century-old attempted Norwegian settlement in Potter County. Now part of the Susquehanna State Forest, the site marks an attempt by "Ole Bull," a famous violinist, to create the Norwegian settlement in the northern Pennsylvania woods.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Vol. 7, No. 1 Spring 1955

Published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation
712 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Subscription is included in annual dues of members and member organizations. Special subscription rate for libraries only is $2.00 per year. Application for entrance as second class matter made April 24, 1952 at Washington, D. C.

Published quarterly

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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CALCULATED RUIN

When the city of Lawrence, Mass., lost the Bodwell house, the editor of the *Tribune* commented it was about the only antiquity remaining in the city, and they were sorry to see it go "But having inspected its interior lately, we really don't see much future for it, if the exterior delapidation is any measure of the interior delapidation. The ruin that is presently the old Bodwell house prompts us to observe that some problems get solved by studious neglect. . . . Once gone it can never be replaced.

"However, we suppose it is better to be practical. There's no point, possibly, in trying to cling to the vestments of tradition when they are crumbling in the hand. It strikes us, though, that a certain amount of calculation went into the ruin we now weep for."

Calculated ruin confronts us wherever authorities, hostile or indifferent to the architectural and historical treasures left in their safekeeping, view the expenditure of funds on their behalf as a waste of funds urgently needed elsewhere. A brief review of the end results of a program of studied indifference since the last quarterly was published offers the following testimony:

Green Hill Mansion, a 40-room, elegant Victorian mansion in 500 acres of park was left to the city of Worcester, Mass. in memory of Andrew H. Green, its fourth owner. He was the loyal advocate of Central Park, in New York City, and fought to save Niagara Falls as a great scenic wonder for the nation. No repairs were made to the house by the city, and it has now reached a derelict stage where razing is the only feasible solution. This despite the fact that the city's patriotic and civic organizations urgently need facilities and there have been frequent appeals to maintain the property for community use.

In 1915, the old King estate near Plainfield Street, in Providence, R. I., with a small gambrel-roofed house dating from the early 1700's was given to the city for park purposes. Its restoration was urged by John Hutchins Cady, F.A.I.A., and others—but by the time any work was considered estimates for restoration were as high as $25,000. The building was razed in March.

For four years, the Wyman Foundation has urged stabilization and protection of *Wyman Villa*, a notable Tuscan revival structure on the campus of Johns Hopkins University. Built in 1851 by William Wyman, he willed it to his daughter at his death in 1903, and to the university upon her death, together with his remaining fortune. Since the death of the daughter in 1949, the building has been a prey to weather, vandals and neglect. The Board of Trustees announced it would cost $145,000 to recondition the building for use—and it interferes with plans to develop the area opposite the Marine Hospital. The building was razed in May and some of its painted ceiling ornaments, chandeliers and salvageable items will be taken by the Foundation to a museum for future study.

In 1887 when San Francisco's generous benefactor, Sutro, gave to the city a vast sculpture "The Triumph of Light" by the Belgian artist, Antoine Wietz, it was unveiled on "Mt. Olympus" at impressive ceremonies at which the word "forever" was mentioned more than once. Today the shabby 12 foot figure on its 30-foot unsteady pedestal lacks a right arm, the sword is missing from her left hand—and the city fathers urge demolition.

In 1939, the state of Indiana levied a special tax and created a New Harmony Memorial Commission to restore the notable old buildings in this small commumnity which has been the site of two of the nation's most fascinating Utopian ventures. The war, politics, changing administrations, and ineptitude on the part of the Commission resulted in years of stalemating, and resultant dramatic deterioration of the state-owned structures. Governor George N. Craig pocket-vetoed a bill to reactivate the Commission, but in response to a telegram from the National Trust last month replied, "Respectfully advise you Indiana has no intention of abandonment of the program of restoration of the New Harmony community. The site will be maintained in perpetuity by the Indiana Department of Conservation following voluntary dissolution of the New Harmony Memorial Commission." On May 25, at the Governor's direction, the 10-member Commission with 6 present, voted itself out of existence. Doxie Moore, administrative assistant to the governor, told reporters that unless a special appropriation is made by the finance board, which he termed unlikely, the project will be delayed again until the 1957 legislature can take action. Governor Craig plans to visit New Harmony in the next 30 days to study the situation.

The mansion designed for Larz Anderson after Lulworth Castle in England, and left to the town of Brookline, Mass., in 1948 for educational, recreational or charitable purposes was razed in May after a 3-year study of possible uses for the building. The land will be used for a parking lot. Large mirrors, Japanese murals, mantelpieces, oriental lanterns, and other choice built-in fixtures are being sold off to collectors.

Is your state, municipality or college engaged in a quiet program of studious neglect with one of the historic or architectural treasures entrusted to its care? —H.D.B.

DESTRUCTION

King of Prussia, Pa. The isolated 246-year-old King of Prussia Inn, near the Valley Forge interchange of the Pennsylvania turnpike will be sold for as little as $1 for removal or will be torn down as a traffic hazard. The State Highways Department left the inn on a small island in the middle of the four-lane highway when the destruction of the history-steeped structure was opposed by historical societies and civic groups. No use can be made of the building in its present situation and prohibitive removal costs and the condition of the old structure have so far defeated efforts of interested groups to preserve the landmark.

Boston, Mass. In its worst waterfront fire in 30 years the city lost a large section of historic India wharf, near the scene of the Boston Tea Party. The wharf was the only commercial structure identified with Boston's notable architect, Charles Bullfinch. Arson was suspected.

San Francisco, Calif. A dock fire did extensive damage in San Francisco on the day that India wharf burned, and in a later disaster, the historic Ferry Building was extensively damaged.

Rochester, N. Y. The Inner Loop and new Civic Center have been responsible for the knocking down of more old Third Ward structures than a pre-atomic "blockbuster." The 121-year-old house at Troup and Fitzhugh Streets built by Joseph Field, one of the city's first millionaires was one victim of the Inner Loop.

The Civic Center claimed *Kensington*, the residence in 1844-50 of Leonard Jerome, grandfather of Winston Churchill.

New Rochelle, N. Y. Steam shovels and bulldozers of the New England Thruway will level St. Luke's Lutheran Church and Evangelical Covenant Church. Also in the path of the super-highway is the Old Huguenot Burying Ground, which was laid out in 1690 and an Allaire family cemetery of about 1780. The 265 graves in the two cemeteries will be removed to the cemetery of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church (organized 1688).

Springfield, Mo. The city's most historic house, the last residence of John Polk Campbell, one of its founders has been razed to make way for an apartment building. His family first occupied the house in 1852.

Chariton, Iowa. In April the whole town turned out with Gov. Leo Hoegh and Chief Justic Charles F. Wennestrum of the Iowa Supreme Court to say farewell to old Mallory's castle *Ilion.* The mansion was built on a 945 acre estate in 1879 by Smith H. Mallory, who amassed a railroad fortune. Humorist Irvin S. Cobb, composer Carrie Jacobs Bond and Mme. Schumann-Heink were only a few of the notables who were guests in *Ilion's* palmier days, which ended with untimely deaths and a bank failure in the panic of 1907. A housing sub-division will replace it.

Wrecker at work razing historic *Wyman Villa* on the campus of Johns Hopkins University.
William Klender of the *Sun* Papers.

Providence, R. I. "Will the Freeway have a place for ghosts?" asks the *Journal* reminding its readers that along the east bank of Providence River are a dozen shabby little streets with names reminiscent of the day when the port was humming with commerce. Condemnation maps point the end to streets with such names as Guilder, Doubloon, Dollar, Dime, Gold, Silver, Coin, Cent, Sovereign Bullion, Packet, Custom and Patriot Streets. Lamenting that the tall masts along South Water Street will never be seen again it suggests a Doubloon Cloverleaf, Dollar Ramp or perhaps a Patriot Plaza for an emergency off-lane parking strip to keep memories alive at least.

Philadelphia, Pa. The three-century-old Japanese pagoda in Fairmont Park was totally destroyed by fire in May. The wooden temple gate was moved to its site between Landsdowne and Horticultural drives in 1905 and was surrounded by a Japanese garden which also suffered damage from the flames. Park guards said the fire started in a second floor wing where a maintenance force had been working.

Orange County, N. Y. The Philip Alexander VerPlanck mansion (1838) on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River at Plum Point has been demolished to make room for the extension of sand and gravel pits which are supplying material for the New York State Thruway. The structure was patterned after the Temple of Poseidon in Attica, Greece, and was considered an outstanding example of the classic revival in the area.

The Long Gallery of the Arsenal, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Courtesy Helen Tooker and *El Mundo.*

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

The newly-established *Sociedad para el Fomento y Conservación de San Juan*, which has just become a National Trust member, has sent in a report from the president, Rafael A. Gonzalez, of its first accomplishments: Restoration of old San Juan Gate, part of the 17th century fortifications. This was aided in part by a gift of $5,700 from the Club Civica de Damas. Placing of original street names in an old-style ceramic tile. Placing of placques in San José church. Preparation of pamphlets describing historic features in the old city. Encouraging legislation to offer property owners incentives to restore their properties in the old and historic area and maintain them in good condition. (A bill granting tax exemption for ten years on such buildings has been signed by Governor Muñoz Marin). Others active in the organization are Miss Helen V. Tooker, author of a series of illustrated articles in *El Mundo* which stimulated interest in the society's program; and Frederick C. Gjessing, architectural historian, who measured and photographed extensively throughout the old city.

This non-profit organization is cooperating with plans for a redevelopment and urban renewal program under the jurisdiction of the Housing and Redevelopment authority of the City of San Juan and the Planning Commission. Mario Buschiazzo, Argentine architect, authority on Spanish colonial architecture and Puerto Rican Planning Board consultant, is preparing the preliminary report listing architectural monuments of Puerto Rico that should be preserved. He also recommended establishment of a self-governing Historical Monuments Committee, and rezoning of San Juan Antigua.

N. S. Keith and Carl Feiss, planning and urban renewal consultants of Washington, D. C., have been retained as consultants for the renewal of the historic triangle of San Juan, including San Juan Antigua.

Among other Trust members who have been cooperating with the group are Charles E. Peterson, supervising architect of historic structures of the eastern division of the National Park Service; and Harold A. Hubler superintendent of the San Juan National Historic Site.

ENGLISH TRUST SCHOOL

The Fourth National Trust Summer School conducted by the English National Trust will open at *Attingham Park* in England July 8. Twenty-five Americans, including many members of the American National Trust, will participate in the three-week program featuring English country houses. *Attingham Park* is one of the great manor houses given to the National Trust. It serves also as the Shropshire Adult College, whose warden, George Trevelyan, is one of the directors of the course.

During the ten days at *Attingham*, in addition to tours to historic sites and buildings in the vicinity, lectures on English domestic architecture and allied subjects will be offered by a distinguished faculty. Among those appearing on the program are Niklaus Pevsner, Professor of Fine Arts, Cambridge University; Reyner Banham, assistant editor, *Architectural Review*; Dr. Margaret Whinney, Reader in Fine Arts, University of London; and John Lowe, Department of Woodwork, Victoria and Albert Museum.

On July 18 the group will make a private tour in Derbyshire, visiting such noted manors as *Chatsworth* and *Hardwick Hall.* From July 21-28, in cooperation with the York Institute of Architectural Study, the group will stay at St. John's College, Theological College of the Archdiocese of York.

Plans are already under way for the 1956 Summer School. Each year since the inception of this course, an increasing number of Americans have attended. National Trust members who plan to attend the course next year are advised to submit applications before the end of the year.

Harpers Ferry, W.Va. This West Virginia city, whose prosperity—like John Brown's body has long been "amouldering in the grave" is on the brink of a new life. Arrangements for completing land acquisition for Harpers Ferry National Monument are being completed. West Virginia has given 500 acres and Maryland plans to offer 800 acres. Under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service a program is scheduled with an appropriation of $59,000 for this fiscal year to get an actual restoration program under way. The Civil War left the town in ruins, but it enjoyed a brief resurgence as a tourist resort until disastrous floods swept the lower area of the mountainous village at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Tourists, attracted by its rugged scenic beauty and dramatic history are returning in increasing numbers to take self-guided tours recommended by the Park Service, until the time when it will take its place as one of the developed National Monument areas.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

David Stockwell, noted collector of American and English furniture, donated his regular space in the Magazine ANTIQUES for March to assist the National Trust membership campaign.

Sotterley, a colonial plantation on the Patuxent River, St. Mary's County, Md., will open to the public every day from June 15 through Sept. 15 for the benefit of the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities. The estate is owned by Mrs. Mabel S. Ingalls.

For 1955, its bicentennial year, Fort Ticonderoga Association has scheduled a series of special events from April 6 through Nov. 5. It has also published a 96-page documentary booklet with color and black and white reproductions of rare prints and maps. Edited by John H. G. Pell, the director, the booklet is dedicated to Stephen Hyatt Pell and his wife, Sarah Gibbs Thompson Pell, who first restored Fort Ticonderoga and collected its museum of American history.

Mrs. India Edwards has presented to the Steves House of the San Antonio Conservation Society through the National Trust a large carved tester bed with hangings and an ornate mirror of the period of the house. Originally designed by a Cincinnati cabinetmaker in the 1840's, the furniture was shipped to the Paris exposition as an example of American cabinet work, was purchased there by a man from southern Illinois and purchased by Mrs. Edwards from his descendant.

The Girl Scouts of America have passed the $100,000 mark in their campaign to purchase and restore the house in Savannah, Ga., where Juliette Gordon Low, their founder, was born. Part of this will be repaid to National Headquarters which advanced the sum needed for the purchase. Funds are still being sought to complete the restoration fund and provide a permanent endowment for the birthplace.

Trustees of Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Inc. have announced the election of Dr. Harold Dean Cater of St. Paul, Minn. to succeed Dr. Hugh Grant Rowell as executive director of the corporation, on Oct. 1, 1955. The latter will continue as a consultant following his retirement from *Philipse Castle* and *Sunnyside*, which he was active in restoring and later opened to the public. Dr. Cater served as Director of the Minnesota Historical Society from 1948 and added many activities to its program which stimulated local and regional historical interest throughout the state.

Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant, III (ret.), vice chairman of the National Trust, and President of the Columbia Historical Society acknowledged in May the gift of the Heurich Mansion on New Hampshire Ave., Washington, D. C., as a future headquarters for the society. The gift was presented as a memorial to the late Christian Heurich, Washington brewer, who died in 1945 at the age of 102, by his widow, Amelia Louise Keyser. The Victorian mansion is a 32-room brownstone and brick structure built in 1892, on a property containing 17,380 feet of ground, part of which is in elaborate gardens.

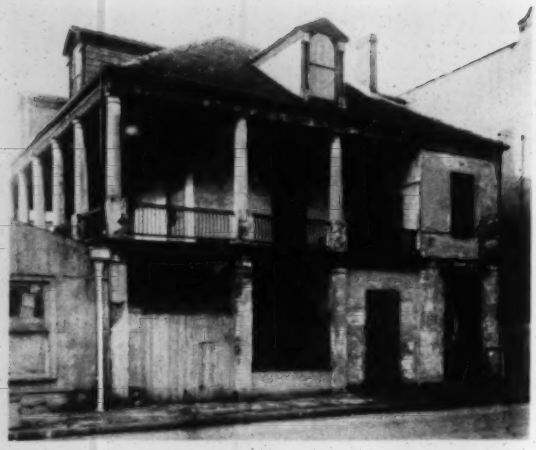
Garden view of the Nathaniel Russell House, (1811). Through the cooperation of the citizens of Charleston, S. C., civic authorities and Historic Charleston Foundation, Inc., this outstanding example of the city's architecture will be preserved and its abutting gardens will not provide building lots for 4 modern houses. Local papers cooperated in a fund-raising drive under the chairmanship of Henry P. Staats, assisted by President Samuel G. Stoney and Ben Scott Whaley of the Foundation and William M. Means. In the evaluative survey of the city's architecture published by the Carolina Art Association in 1944 the Nathaniel Russell House was one of those classified as "nationally important." Its famous oval drawing rooms, delicate Adam interior and flying staircase will be preserved and exhibited under the auspices of Historic Charleston Foundation a National Trust member organization.

Previews, Inc.

POINT LOBOS

Based on studies made with the assistance of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the Carnegie Corporation and the Save-the-Redwoods League, the California State Printing Division has just published *Point Lobos Reserve: Interpretation of a Primitive Landscape*, under the editorship of Aubrey Drury. It presents the varied facets of this outstanding area in California's chain of state parks by specialists in the various phases. The cypress-crowned headland on the Monterey coast has been called by a noted artist "the greatest meeting of land and water in the world."

Newton B. Drury, Trustee of the National Trust and chief of the California Division of Beaches and Parks is author of the chapter on the "Master Plan for the Future." Other contributors are Frederick Law Olmsted and George B. Vaughan, "A Landscape of Beauty and Meaning;" Aubrey Drury and V. A. Neasham, "History at Point Lobos;" Willis L. Jepson, "A *Tree Island* of Monterey Cypress;" and John C. Merriman, "Protection of the Primitive."



Delord-Sarpy House, New Orleans (1814-18) a notable example of West Indian and French influence in Louisiana architecture is in danger of destruction if an exit ramp from a proposed bridge into Camp Street is constructed by the Mississippi River Bridge Authority. Protests from the Louisiana Landmarks Society and the A.I.A. have been met with the statement that it is too late to consider relocation.

Richard Koch, photographer

IN DANGER

Washington, D. C. By a Senate Bill numbered ironically 1776—the block in which the notable old Belmont House stands may be razed to provide security vaults for official records. A house was built on the site in 1772, which was acquired by Robert Sewall in 1799. During his occupancy the British troops marching into Washington in 1814 after the Battle of Bladensburg were fired upon and in retaliation set fire to the house which was partially burned. It was rebuilt and in later years enlarged and in 1929 was bequeathed by Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont to the National Woman's Party, which with the World Woman's Party now uses it as headquarters. Strong opposition to razing one of the oldest and most historic houses in the Capitol area has come from citizens associations and the Capitol Hill Restoration Society.

Fort Lee, N. J. An offer from Sealantic Fund, Inc., an organization founded by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to purchase and give the historic Fort Lee site to the Palisades Park Commission for preservation as an historic and scenic site is the latest phase in a two-year legal struggle to save the Revolutionary battle site. The Borough of Fort Lee has considered rezoning to permit ten-story buildings in the area. Historical societies, conservationists, and a Committee for the Preservation of Historical Sites of Fort Lee have opposed the motion and urge acceptance of the Sealantic offer.

Augusta, Ga. The Georgia Historical Commission will seek means to preserve the historic Augusta Arsenal, which the U. S. Army has announced its intention of abandoning. The first buildings were erected in 1829 situated around a picturesque triangle on extensive grounds. It served the Confederates as a Civil War arsenal but escaped destruction. The Commission proposes that it become part of the University System as an adult education center.

Seven Oaks Plantation at Westwego, La. now owned by the Texas & Pacific-Missouri Pacific Railroad, has been reported by Samuel Wilson, Jr., of the Louisana Landmarks Society as being in a deteriorating condition and in serious need of adequate maintenance if it is to be saved.

Richard Koch, photographer

ACTIVE PRESERVATION

Mount Vernon, Va. Woodlawn Plantation has been presented with a portrait of Elizabeth Bordley Gibson, an early 19th century copy after Gilbert Stuart, which has just been hung in the drawing room. The portrait is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Machold of Philadelphia. Mrs. Gibson was a childhood friend of Nelly Custis, and they continued a lifelong intimacy and correspondence.

Pierre Boal, a National Trust member, announced the opening of the Christopher Columbus Family Chapel and Boal Museum on U. S. Route 322, Boalsburg, Pa., from May 1 through Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The chapel was inherited from Don Diego Colon (son of Columbus) and was brought to this country in 1917 with its altar, gallery railings and many religious and art treasures. The house, built 1789-98, by David Boal is partly open and undergoing restoration. It contains a display of early American and imported furniture, glass, silver and paintings. There is a museum building containing other collections of furniture, antiques, Boal family memorabilia, armor and old weapons. The project is under the direction of Boalsburg Estate Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

James A. Bear, Jr., an assistant in the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia has been named curator for *Monticello*, the house and garden designed by Thomas Jefferson for his residence. *Monticello* is open to the public under the auspices of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation.

Hermann, Mo. The old German School of Hermann, granted a special charter by the General Assembly of Missouri in 1849, established a new chapter in its history when the old board was dissolved and the historic school building turned over to Historic Hermann, Inc. This organization, which annually sponsors a *Maifest* to keep alive its early traditions and to support a city-wide preservation program, will use the building for a city museum and for other purposes.